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failed to submit their annual returns even though the Government asked for the same, as mentioned in the report of the working of the Payment of Wages Act in the State of Madras for the year 1952?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Prosecution was launched against the Paymaster in one of the factories for non-submission of annual returns. The employers in the remaining factories were warned that prosecution would be launched against them if they failed to submit the returns in time in future."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, may I know why the Government have launched prosecution against only one factory owner and why they have only warned the other factory owners? Are the Government satisfied with the replies given by the other factory owners? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" The Government was advised that in the case of the one prosecuted, there was sufficiently serious evidence but in regard to the other factories—most of them are small factories like coffee-hotels, handloom factories, beedi factories, etc., which have been newly brought under this Act—the managements have in many cases, expressed difficulty in submitting the returns on the plea that the account books were with the Income-tax authorities or with the Commercial Taxes Department or there had been a change in the management. So, we thought that a warning was sufficient and I understand that the matter has been rectified to a very great extent."

SRI S. C. C. ANTHONY PILLAI :—" Sir, of all the States in India, the average wage in factories in the State of Madras is the lowest. Is it for this reason, namely, that if all these returns are submitted, the average wage would be much lower than any other State, that the Government are not taking any firm action in this matter? "

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" Without committing myself to the facts as stated by the hon. Member, I straightway deny that that is not the case."

* 253 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—" Sir, this question may be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Yes. I will take up the next question No. 254."

* 254 *Q.*—SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" Sir, this question can also be taken up to-morrow."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Both the questions will be taken up to-morrow."

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Opening of a Co-operative Textile Spinning Mill.

* 255 Q.—SRI T. ANANTA PAI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries and Labour be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have any scheme for opening a Co-operative Textile Spinning Mill in the State; and

(b) if so, where and when?

THE HON. DR. U. KRISHNA RAO :—" (a) The Madras State Handloom Weavers' Co-operative Society proposes to establish a cotton spinning mill in the State on co-operative lines. This proposal is under the consideration of Government.

" (b) The Society proposes to buy if possible some existing textile mill and run it. An offer of sale from a partly-constructed textile mill in Tirunelveli district is being considered by the Society. It may take sometime to reach a decision in the matter."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" Sir, my question can also be taken up to-morrow."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, this question refers to the introduction of the Modified Scheme of Elementary Education to Municipal Towns. This question has already been answered and I do not think that there is much scope for discussion."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is already a quarter past eleven. The Hon. Minister can give his reply."

Extension of new Elementary Education Scheme to Municipal Towns.

* 256 Q.—SRI S. RAMALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the new Elementary Education Scheme to Municipal Towns; and

(b) if so, from what date?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to Starred Question No. 98 on the floor of the Assembly on 5th March 1954."

MR. SPEAKER :—" Questions over."

SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI :—" Sir, I wish to put only one supplementary question."

MR. SPEAKER :—" No. We are already on the next item of the agenda."